HISTORY OF ULRICH BUHLER

Switzerland has always been the home of an indomitable people who have become a symbol of love for freedom. Ulrich Buhler was one of this hardy race. He was born 28 August 1823 at Sigriswil, Bern, Switzerland. His father's name was Christian Buehler, whose forefathers for many generations were born in the same small village near the Thuner Lake in Bern.

Little is known of his boyhood, but it is presumed that he lived a quite industrious life and attended school and prepared himself well for the duties and responsibilities of a useful life. In and around the home where he was born, the country and scenery is beautiful. His daughter, Caroline, tells of going on a boat trip up Thuner Lake on a school excursion to Interlaken. She tells of the beauty of that place, the flowers, trees, mountains and meadows, places where people come from far and near to see its beauty and view the Alps.

He met Anna Burgdorfer, to whom he was married in 1845. Anna was the daughter of Christian Burgdorfer and Susan Egli, and was born on 21 September 1824 at Eggiwill, Bern, Switz. She was industrious, thrifty, and a splended cook and seamstress, a fitting companion to Ulrich. They belonged to the Swiss Reformed Church, where they were devout and sincere members. Ulrich became a hotel manager in his native town of Sigriswil. Later he established a tobacco factory on the shore of Lake Thuner. He became quite successful in the tobacco industry and farming. On market days he would visit neighboring villages to sell his products. While on one of these trips, he called on a printer to have labels printed for his cigars. While there he noticed a pamphlet entitled "Zion's Pioneers" lying on the table. He asked the printer what the pamphlet was about. He was informed that a minister from a religious sect from America left it there. The printer told him to take it home and read it.

He read the pamphlet and felt that it was true. Later the Mormon missionaries called at his home and spent all night discussing the scriptures and the gospel as taught by the Latter Day Saints. The missionaries so ably presented their interpretation of the scriptures and the restoration through Joseph Smith, that Ulrich became converted to Mormonism. He was especially impressed with the Word of Wisdom and when he decided to join the Church some six months later, he felt that he could no longer make cigars and sell wine from his vineyard. As a result, he sold his home, his cigar factory, and his vineyard and applied for baptism. Before he was baptized, he told the Elder that he preferred to remain in Switzerland. However, after he and his wife and oldest daughter were baptized on 22 July 1854 by J. F. Secrist, he reported that he was ready to immigrate to America. Those in charge of the Church had observed him and because of his integrity, industry, and faithfulness, they asked him to remain for the time being and take charge of the Branch in Staffisburg. He accepted their council and purchased a home and farm in Aeschlenburg, near Bern. This farm was on a hillside. His sons helped carry dirt in baskets up the steep hill to replace the soil which had been lost through erosion. The children also helped herd goats from whose milk cheese was made and sold. The family found happiness in their work and joy in their new religion. It was in Aeschlenburg that Karl J. Maeser often visited at the Buehler home to teach and discuss the principles of the restored gospel.

Ulrich was ordained an Elder shortly after baptism. He felt that he must carry the gospel to others and in doing this he made many interesting friends and had invaluable experiences. In one instance, he with six companions, were thrown into prison for holding service. Another time he was caught by a mob of 20 and his hands were bound. He secretly prayed for the Lord to protect him and then he preached a sermon with such force and power that his captors acknowledged that he was telling the truth and set him free.

It is reported that while two missionaries, Brothers Brandly and Tucker were preaching, a mob gathered, determined to break up the meeting. In order to cause more noise and excitement, someone put bells on some of the cows and drove them around the house where the meeting was being held. One man by the name of Sperry was injured. Three of the cows who wore bells died; therefore, the anti-mormons never again used the same method to break up a Mormon meeting.

One family by the name of Kunz, who lived in Simenthal, had heard of the gospel and of the healings under the hands of Elders. When one of their daughters was ill, they sent for Brother Buehler to come and administer to her. He went, administered to her and she regained her health. He then taught them the gospel. The father and daughter joined, but one son

by the name of John was angry and threatened to kill Brother Buehler if he ever came there again. He was fearless and knew he had the truth and continued to call on the Kunz family until they joined the Church. After the Buehlers and Kunz emigrated to Utah, Brother Buehler's two daughters married into the Kunz family. Brother Buehler remained in Switzerland teaching and preaching the gospel for 18 years after his conversion. He was a fluent speaker and had a thorough knowledge of the gospel. People enjoyed listening to him preach in his native tongue. He was sincere and convincing in his testimony of the divinity of the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith and Brigham Young. He defended Mormonism among his fellow countrymen, his enemies, and the ministers not of our faith.

Sister Buehler assisted her husband in every way possible. She was a charming hostess to those early missionaries who called at her home. Among those who were frequent vistors were Karl G. Maeser and Edward Schoenfeld. In 1865, Anna left with some of the saints and missionaries for Utah. After some delay in England, she arrived safely in Salt Lake City. Later in 1870 Elizabeth left for America. Brother and Sister Buehler with their children left on 4 June 1872 in the Edward Schoenfeld company. There were 80 saints from Switzerland and 151 from Germany. They left Liverpool on 12 June 1872 on the ship Manhatten. They arrived in New York on 27 June 1872. They arrived in Salt Lake City on 4 July 1872 and were met by their daughter Anna.

The Buehler family located in Midway, Utah. It had a population of 1,000 of which one-half were Swiss. Brother Buehler was made President of the German speaking saints there. He purchased a farm, and being a carpenter, built one of the first frame homes and made his own furniture. True to his industrious nature, he spent the evenings cutting shingles of a special design for covering the sides of his house. After completing his home, he was hired to build several other homes in Midway, Utah.

He and his wife were sealed in the Logan Temple in 1891 and had their children sealed to them. They were as follows: Anna B. Hicks, Magdalena B. Berger, Elizabeth B. Kunz, Susanna B. Hicks, Gottfreid Buehler, Carolina B. Kunz, John U. Buehler, Charles Buehler, and Gottlieb Buehler. His daughter, Magdalena Berger, who had no children, worked for 14 years, almost daily, in the Salt Lake Temple, that the ancestors might have the blessings of the gospel. Sister Buehler died 25 October 1902 and Brother Buehler followed on 30 January 1907. They were buried at Midway, Utah. Their posterity in October 1946 numbered 590.

[NOTE: Picture of the home Ulrich Buhler built is in the Buhler section of this book on Alma and Hazel Buhler--Alma being a grandson of Ulrich Buehler.]

ARTICLES AND PICTURES TAKEN FROM THE BOOK
PIONEERS AND PROMINENT MEN OF UTAH 1850-1900
At the Brigham Young University. Research done by Michael W. Gifford

ULRICH BUHLER
Born Dec. 7, 1823, Heimondswand, Switzerland. Came to Utah July 4, 1872. High Priest. Farmer.

ULRICH BUHLER

Ulrich Buhler, (son of Christian Buhler and Anna Von Gunten of Achlisbuhl, Canton Bern, Switzerland. Came to Utah July 4, 1872.

Married Ann Burgdorffer 1854, in Switzerland (daughter of Christian Burgdorffer and Susanna Egli, of Gunten, Switzerland, pioneers 1868). She was born in July 1824. Their children: Anna, m. John T. R. Hicks; Magdalena, m. Christen Berger; Elizabeth, m. Christian Kunz; Susanna, m. John T. R. Hicks; Gottfried F., m. Louisa Barben; Caroline, m. Christen Kunz; John Ulrich, m. Magdalena Haueter; Karl, m. Jane McGee; Gotlieb, m. Louisa Krebs. Family home Midway, Utah.

High priest, Farmer. Died Jan. 31, 1907

GOTTFRIED F. BUHLER
Son of Ulrich Buhler and Anna Burgdorffer. Born Oct. 28, 1854, in Switzerland. High Priest. Stockraiser; Merchant. Pres. German Branch, Midway (Utah) Ward.

GOTTFRIED F. BUHLER

Gottfried F. Buhler (son of Ulrich Buhler and Anna Burgdorffer Born Oct. 28, 1854, in Switzerland. Came to Utah in 1872.

Married Louisa Barbin Dec. 9, 1880, Salt Lake Ctiy (daughter of Jacob Barbin and Susan Bergener of Switzerland). She was born Jan. 1, 1865. Their children: Franklin Gottfried b. Jan.10, 1883 Died; William John b. Nov. 8, 1885, m. Rachel Wilson; Joseph b. July 11, 1887; Alma Herman b. Jan. 16, 1892; Adeline Louisa b. August 30, 1893: Francis Lyman b. Oct. 30, 1895; Ephraim Walter b. Aug. 12, 1897; Carl Rolland b. Oct 17, 1899; Orson Earl b. Jan. 26, 1902; Burnice Elmence b. Feb. 27, 1904; Vesta Amber; Thurman Jacob. Family home Midway, Utah.

Missionary to Switzerland and Germany 1888-90; high priest; ward teacher; president German branch. School trustee; member town board; justice of the peace. Established first creamery at Midway; stockraiser and merchant.